

Town of Wethersfield
Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday January 10, 2008 – 12:00 Noon
Basement/Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chair Betty Rosania called the meeting to order at 12:02 p. m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Betty Rosania, Bill Knapp, Doug Sacks, Joan Hughes, Kate Mullen, Tony Homicki, Chris Lyons and John Adamian.

Members absent: Howard Greenblatt, Chris Monroe, Brian Silver, Ken Rizzio and Joe Cornelio.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager, Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Status Report - Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – Bonnie Therrien reported that the contractor is waiting for DOT approval in order to start the project.
- b. Website Update Status – Peter Gillespie reported that he has received positive feedback and recommendations. Tom Hemphill will continue to add content and restructure specific areas.
- c. Status Report - Preserve America Master Plan – Peter Gillespie reported that a conference call scheduled to encourage the completion of the report has been delayed but he anticipates receipt of the draft in the upcoming weeks and that a public hearing will be held in February. Mr. Gillespie also noted that an F.O.I. request has been submitted. Bonnie Therrien reported that a grant application for wayfinding signage has been submitted and recipients will be announced in March.
- d. Status Report - Horse and Carriage Rides – Bonnie Therrien noted that the animal rights groups never showed up in protest and that only a few complaints were logged during the first week due to horse droppings. The operator was called immediately and has taken steps to ensure that would no longer be a problem. Peter Gillespie gave a brief summary of the success of the program and noted that next year there should be runs made in the week between the Christmas holiday and New Years.

4. New Business

- a. Objectives and Strategies 2008 – Peter Gillespie reported that he is waiting for the Preserve America recommendations so they can be integrated into the long-term objectives and strategies. He noted that the Finance Committee would meet after receipt of the draft plan.

b. Follow Up - Salute To Business – December 12, 2007 – Peter Gillespie reported on the success of the evening detailing attendance, costs and positive feedback received.

c. Façade Applications – Status Report - Peter Gillespie reported that of the original \$200,000 Silas Deane Highway account, \$181,850 has been committed. He noted that he has requested an additional \$100,000 in this years Capitol Improvement Budget. Additionally, he noted that the town wide façade program has committed \$74,862 to fund 5 projects and has a balance of approximately \$80,000 and has received \$200,000 more through STEAP. Mr. Gillespie noted that he would like to ask the state for permission to transfer some of that balance into the Silas Deane Highway program. A brief discussion ensued and Bill Knapp made a motion to transfer \$100,000 from the town wide program into the Silas Deane Highway program. Chris Lyons seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

d. CIP 2008/2009 – Peter Gillespie reported that he has requested funding as follows:

\$50,000 – Redevelopment
\$100,000 – Façade Improvement
\$25,000 – Design Review Guidelines
\$25,000 – Revitalization

Mr. Gillespie noted that requests total over \$8 million have been submitted and only \$1.5 million will be granted.

e. Budget 2008/2009 – Peter Gillespie distributed a copy of the proposed budget for review

4. Reports of the Town Manager -

Town Manager's Report – Bonnie Therrien reported on the following:

- Planned forums to be held regarding the budget process
- Revaluation inspections have begun
- Starting back up the Business Visitation program
- CBS filming at the Mill Woods Skate Park
- Expressed urgency in contacting William Mullen at the Army Corps.
regarding the proposed expansion of 1260 Silas Deane Highway (Hartford
Hospital)

Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie discussed agenda items for the January 15, 2008 meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Joan Hughes noted that there was no December meeting and that the Commission is discussing hosting a spring event.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the January 3, 2008 report.

6. Chairman's Report – Chair Rosania discussed her disappointment over the lack of visibility in the news. Ms. Rosania also welcomed new member John Adamian.
7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – No report was given.
Financial Strategies – No report was given.
8. Minutes- Approval of November 8, 2007 meeting minutes - Joan Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2007 meeting. Bill Knapp seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
9. Next Meeting – February 14, 2008
10. Correspondence
11. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner